The Sierra Peaks Section Peak List identifies 246 mountains spanning the length and breadth of John Muir's beloved Range of Light. The List includes mountains drawn from 39 geographic areas of the Sierra, and includes peaks ranging in climbing difficulty from Class 1 (hiking or trail) to Class 5 (technical rock climbing). Fifteen are designated Sierra Peaks due to their prominence or special quality, while another 23 are designated Master Sierra Peaks due to the challenges they pose in reaching their upper regions. Recognition in groups of 25 Mountains who achieve different levels of accomplishment: Emblem status is obtained by climbing 25 listed Peaks, including 16 Emblems peaks. Senior Emblem status for climbing 50 Emblems Peaks (in three areas), all of Emblems Peaks, and all 15 Mountainmen peaks. Master Emblem status is awarded to those who climb 150 Peaks (in three areas), all of Emblems Peaks, and all 25 Mountainmen Peaks. If over the highest navigation peaks in those who complete the entire List, a feat accomplished by only 65 hearty souls by the close of 2007.

The current List has evolved through a complex interplay of personal ambition, exploration, debate—public and private—and reflection. The List also reflects past legacies. Indeed, the first unofficial list, numbering 183 (35) Peaks, was based on selections from Auto Club maps, the best cartographic representation available in June 1905. The first published List appeared in 1905, the same year as Muir's founding of the Sierra Club. The List underwent some revisions but remained substantially the same until the next decade, averaging 217 by 1923 and 218 by 1939. The Sierra Club published the List in 1942, reprinted the List in 1955, the same year as the List was published in 1905. The current List has evolved through a complex interplay of personal ambition, exploration, debate—public and private—and reflection.